Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Insertions of text are indicated with underlining, like this. Deletions of text are indicated by strikethrough, ~~like this~~, except that deletions of five or fewer characters or where strikethrough may be difficult to perceive are indicated with double brackets, like [[so]].

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A reagent having the structure (I)

Phos—Cgp—Trl—Cgp'—Nucl (I)

wherein:

Phos is a reactive phosphorus group,

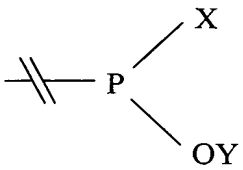
Trl is a triaryl methyl linker group,

Cgp is a linking group linking the reactive phosphorus group and the triaryl methyl linker group, or is a bond linking the reactive phosphorus group and the triaryl methyl linker group,

Nucl is a nucleoside moiety, and

Cgp' is a linking group linking the nucleoside moiety and the triaryl methyl linker group, or is a bond linking the nucleoside moiety and the triaryl methyl linker group; and ~~group~~

wherein the reactive phosphorus group has the structure (VI)



(VI)

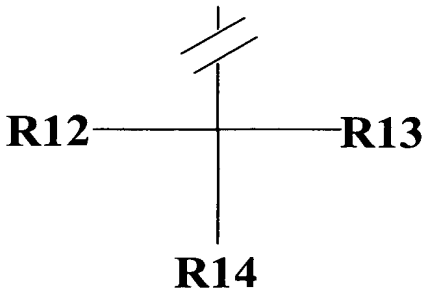
wherein:

the broken line indicates the bond to the Cgp';

X is selected from halogen or a secondary amino group; and

Y is selected from hydrido, hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl..

2. (original) The reagent of claim 1, wherein the triaryl methyl linker group has the structure (IV)



(IV)

wherein the broken line represents the bond to the linking group denoted Cgp' in structure (I), and

wherein R12, R13, and R14 are independently selected from unsubstituted or substituted aryl groups, provided that one of R12, R13, and R14 is substituted by being bound to the reactive phosphorus group via the Cgp group.

3. (original) The reagent of claim 2, wherein R12, R13, and R14 are independently selected from substituted phenyl and unsubstituted phenyl, provided that one of R12, R13, or R14 is substituted by being bound to the reactive phosphorus group via the Cgp group.

4. (currently amended) The reagent of claim 2, wherein R12, R13 and R14 are optionally substituted aryl groups independently selected from phenyl, biphenyl, naphthanyl, indolyl, pyridinyl, pyrrolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, annulenyl, quinolinyl, and anthracenyl, provided that one of R12, R13, and R14 is substituted by being bound to the reactive phosphorus group via the Cgp group.

5. (currently amended) The reagent of claim 4, wherein at least one of R12, R13, and R14 is selected from naphthanyl, indolyl, pyridinyl, pyrrolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, annulenyl, quinolinyl, and anthracenyl, provided that one of R12, R13, and R14 is substituted by being bound to the reactive phosphorus group via the Cgp group.

6. (currently amended) The reagent of claim 2, wherein R12, R13, and R14 are independently selected from phenyl, methoxyphenyl, dimethoxyphenyl, trimethoxyphenyl, and furanyl, provided that one of R12, R13, and R14 is substituted by being bound to the reactive phosphorus group via the Cgp group.

7. (original) The reagent of claim 1, wherein the linking group denoted Cgp is selected from

(1) a lower alkyl group;

(2) a modified lower alkyl group in which one or more linkages selected from ether-, oxo-, thio-, amino-, phospho-, silyloxi, is present;

(3) a substituted lower alkyl group having one or more additional groups including lower alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxyl, thioalkyl, hydroxyl, amino, sulfonyl, halo; and

(4) a modified lower alkyl having (4a) one or more linkages selected from ether-, oxo-, thio-, amino-, phospho-, silyloxi and also having (4b) one or more additional groups selected from lower alkyl; aryl; aralkyl; alkoxyl; thioalkyl; hydroxyl; amino; nitro; nitroso; cyano; sulfonyl; carbonyl; carboxy; and halo.

8. (original) The reagent of claim 1, wherein the linking group denoted Cgp' comprises a polynucleotide moiety.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The reagent of claim [[9]] 1, wherein X is a secondary amino group having the structure —NQ1Q2; in which Q1 and Q2 are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, alkynyl, and cycloalkynyl, optionally containing one or more nonhydrocarbyl linkages and optionally substituted on one or more available carbon atoms.

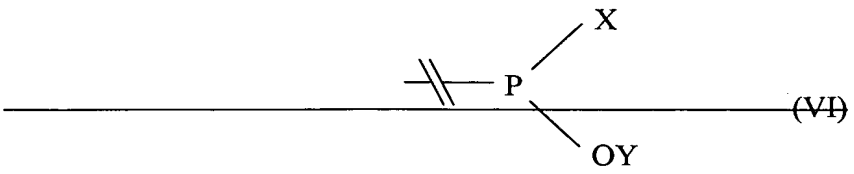
11. (currently amended) The reagent of claim [[9]] 1, wherein Y is selected from alkyl, lower alkyl, alkenyl, benzyl, substituted benzyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, electron-withdrawing β-substituted alkyl, electron-withdrawing β -substituted ethyl; electron-withdrawing substituted phenyl; or electron-withdrawing substituted phenylethyl.

12. (currently amended) The reagent of claim [[9]] 1, wherein X is a diisopropyl amino group and Y is selected from methyl, benzyl, substituted benzyl, β-cyanoethyl, methyl-β-cyanoethyl, dimethyl-β-cyanoethyl, phenylsulfonylethyl, methyl-sulfonylethyl, *p*-nitrophenylsulfonylethyl, 2,2,2-trichloro-1,1-dimethylethyl, 2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl, 2-(2-pyridyl)ethyl, allyl, 4-methylene-1-acetylphenol, β-thiobenzoylethyl, 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethyl, *p*-nitrophenylethyl, *p*-cyanophenyl-ethyl, 9-fluorenylmethyl, 1,3-dithionyl-2-methyl, 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl, 2-methylthioethyl, 2-(diphenylphosphino)-ethyl, 1-methyl-1-phenylethyl, 3-buten-1-yl, 4-(trimethylsilyl)-2-buten-1-yl, cinnamyl, α-methylcinnamyl, and 8-quinolyl.

13. (previously presented) A method comprising:

contacting a solid support having an available reactive group bound thereto with a reagent according to claim 1, the contacting being performed under conditions and for a time sufficient to result in the nucleoside moiety bound to the support via the triaryl methyl linker group, wherein the triaryl methyl linker group is bound to the support via a phosphorus-containing linkage group.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the available reactive group is selected from hydroxyl, amino, and thio~~, and the reactive phosphorus group has the structure (VI)~~



~~wherein:~~

~~The broken line indicates the bond via which the reactive nucleoside group is attached to the nucleoside moiety;~~

~~X is selected from halogen or a secondary amino group; and~~

~~Y is selected from hydrido, hydrocarbyl, or substituted hydrocarbyl~~.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein X is a secondary amino group having the structure —NQ1Q2; in which Q1 and Q2 are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkenyl, alkynyl, and cycloalkynyl, optionally containing one or more nonhydrocarbyl linkages and optionally substituted on one or more available carbon atoms.

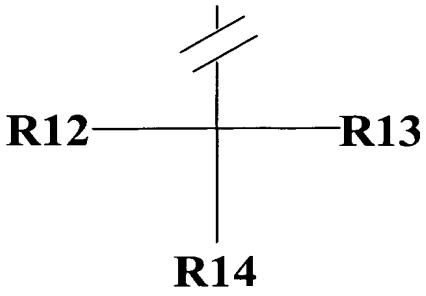
16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein Y is selected from alkyl, lower alkyl, alkenyl, benzyl, substituted benzyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, electron-withdrawing β-substituted alkyl, electron-withdrawing β -substituted ethyl; electron-withdrawing substituted phenyl; or electron-withdrawing substituted phenylethyl.

17. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the nucleoside moiety has a hydroxyl protecting group bound thereto.

18 (original) The method of claim 17, further comprising contacting the nucleoside moiety bound to the support with a combined deprotection/ oxidation agent under conditions and for a time sufficient to concurrently remove the hydroxyl protecting group and oxidize the phosphorus-containing linkage group.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein the combined deprotection/ oxidation agent comprises an alpha effect nucleophile.

20. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the triaryl methyl linker group has the structure (IV)



(IV)

wherein the broken line represents the bond via which the triaryl methyl linker group is bound to the nucleoside moiety, and

wherein R12, R13, and R14 are independently selected from unsubstituted or substituted aryl groups, provided that one of R12, R13, and R14 is substituted by being bound to the reactive phosphorus group.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein R12, R13, and R14 are independently selected from substituted phenyl and unsubstituted phenyl, provided that one of R12, R13, or R14 is substituted by being bound to the reactive phosphorus group.

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein R12, R13 and R14 are optionally substituted aryl groups independently selected from phenyl, biphenyl, naphthanyl, indolyl, pyridinyl, pyrrolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, annulenyl, quinolinyl, and anthracenyl.

23. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of R12, R13, and R14 is selected from naphthanyl, indolyl, pyridinyl, pyrrolyl, thiophenyl, furanyl, annulenyl, quinolinyl, and anthracenyl.